

3-10-2016

## Omaha Star Exclusive Report: 2016 Nebraska Caucus (North Omaha)

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### Recommended Citation

Love, Preston Jr., "Omaha Star Exclusive Report: 2016 Nebraska Caucus (North Omaha)" (2016). *Black Studies Faculty Publications*. 35.

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## **Black Votes Matter**

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Black Lives, Black Poverty and Black Votes Matter



### **Omaha Star Exclusive Report: 2016 Nebraska Caucus (North Omaha)**

The 2016 Presidential race came to Nebraska this past week. Recently Chelsea Clinton visited Big Mama's Kitchen, Bill Clinton was in Benson and north Omaha's own and Candidate Bernie Sanders' National press Secretary, Symone Sanders also made a stop at Big Mama's. Not since 1968 has North Omaha had such visits from the presidential campaign big hitters. It was about time that the community that gave President Obama historical split electoral Vote (2008) get the respect we deserve. Our community has needs and views on key issues and we need to be heard.

These visits set the stage for the long awaited Democratic Caucus held March 5<sup>th</sup>. Bernie Sanders won the state(Nebraska) and Douglas County (Sanders 54% to Clinton 46%).

In North Omaha there were three key Caucus sites: LD8 held at Benson High, LD11 held at Skinner Magnet Middle School and LD13 held at Nathan Hale Middle School. Sanders won at Benson, Clinton won at Skinner and Nathan Hale. Participation was strong throughout the state and in Douglas County. Benson had 1300 participants, Skinner, 512 and Nathan Hale 832.

As coordinator of the LD13 Caucus and information recipient from the other North Omaha Caucuses I share with you some of my observations.

### **North Omaha Caucus Observations**

Absentee votes:

The Clinton campaign used an aggressive strategy to obtain absentee voters. It worked significantly. The absentee votes were very high based on our historical caucus experience. Very high. At the LD13 caucus there were far more Sanders supporters in attendance, yet Clinton won because of a 275 to 39 vote margin of absentee ballots.

Voter Registration:

Voters were able to register or re-register at the caucus sites. There was an unusual large amount of voter registration activity at the caucuses. New voters and republican switchers were a surprise to some. LD13 had over 75 voter registration at the caucus. Very high.

The Black Vote:

In Douglas County where there was a strong bloc of black votes Hillary won. LD11, where the black voters were dominant, Hillary won easily. LD8 where the non-black vote was dominant Hillary lost big. In LD13 the Black vote was the strong deterrent for the Hillary victory in an otherwise close race. In Douglas County the Black vote mattered. For the record, between LD11 and LD 13, over 200 Black Votes Matter yard signs were gathered up by caucus participants. Unfortunately voter participation in the black community lagged the rest of the county. We must stop that!!! We are wasting our power.

Going forward:

Nebraska has a Primary election May10th. We will vote to retain the Nebraska law prohibiting the death penalty, US congressman, important state and local offices. North Omaha voters are urged to: Register to vote, vote early (early ballot application are available now), attend candidate forums and review the League of Women Voters "Voters Guide", volunteer to help get the vote out, seek a ride to the polls if needed (rides will be available), put a free Black Votes Matter yard sign in your yard, push yourself and your circles to vote and finally realize that your vote matters.

*To review previous Black Votes Matter column articles visit **Omahastar.com**. Or **prestonlovejr.com**. Column began September 11, 2015*